

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene F. Kennedy, Council President Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (Late)

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator & City Treasurer, Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Higgs

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

**2.1. Certificate of Recognition by Councilmember Kennedy.**

- Councilmember Kennedy presented a certificate to Ms. Clara Gallop on her holiday decorations.

**3. LEGISLATION**

**3.1. Ordinance O-13-08 Amendment of Chapter 39 Purchasing.** Ordinance O-13-08 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, January 7, 2013 and the first reading was concluded. The second reading was on Monday, January 14, 2013. It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Simms. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Simms

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Stephenson

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant stated that the Seat Pleasant Elementary School was awarded the Title I recognition last month.
- He stated that we initiated and launched a mentorship program at the Seat Pleasant Elementary School. They have 40 persons involved in the program.
- He stated that we completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislative Breakfast last month.
- The announcement of the State first five Health Enterprise zone will be held this Thursday, January 17, 2013. Seat Pleasant is a part of the Health Enterprise Zone. The building of the health center on the fifteen acres down the street. No application was submitted that was started here in Seat Pleasant. He stated that we will be a part of the County application. The Health and Wellness Center will be included in the application.
- He stated that the center will be open 24 hours of day and 7 days a week.
- The Maryland Inaugural Ball will be hosted at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center. The tickets will be \$20.00. They are expecting 200 people to participate in a community based Inaugural Ball.
- Healthy Start will start in March at Seat Pleasant Activity Center. You cannot be diagnosed with Type II diabetes to participate in the program.

##### **4.2. Kelly Porter, Council President Report:**

- Council President Porter stated that his report is on the information stand

##### **4.3 Kevin Brenner, Chief-Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department**

- Chief Brenner was absent from the Public Session and no report was submitted.

##### **4.4. Acting City Administrator – Robert L. Ashton**

- Mr. Ashton stated that the City was awarded a grant which will allow homes to be repaired for winterization in the City. We must identify 10 homes in the City of Seat Pleasant.
- It will pertain to molding, windows, mildew and rodents. The names must be forwarded in eight days.
- Mayor Grant wanted to know if the data would be used from the previous program.
- He would like to know the Council decisions on the memorandum that requested to purchase two vehicles for City Hall and the Director of Public Works.

- Mayor Grant stated that they do not approve any purchases of vehicles at this time. It should be handled during the budgetary process.
- Carrington Avenue property concern-They forwarded the request to the County

**4.5. Finance Department- Robert Ashton, Treasurer**

- Mr. Ashton stated that the audit has been completed, but he is leaving his report to the Budget and Finance Committee.
- He stated that a Tax Credit program opens up in the month of April. He requested everyone to pay attention to the newsletter and website. He stated any questions on the program can be addressed by the Treasurer's Office
- Councilwoman Simms requested the criteria for the Winterization Program be provided to the City Council.
- Mr. Ashton stated that any qualified resident will be required to pay 10% for participation in the program.
- Council President Porter stated that he would provide Mr. Ashton with some information on how to get the information out to the community.

**4.6. Police Department – Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police**

- Mr. Cotillo stated that the department made 19 arrests in the month of December.
- They have started 24 hour shift
- He stated that they will be starting in service training in-house. The training will be provided for free by Prince George's County.
- They will be working with the JAG group on cause of life issues.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she was concerned with the hot spot areas. She wanted to know if he had the cooperation with the management properties. He stated that he has spoken with Eastern Avenue Apartments.
- Councilwoman Stephenson wanted to know if the pit bulls are still illegal in Maryland. Chief stated that they are illegal and they will come out to verify and call animal control or the police officer can write a citation.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know if some information can be provided on the website. He stated that he will get with the person who handles the website. He stated that he's not sure of how much information to put on the site. He puts information in the newsletter on Do's and Don'ts.

**4.7. Public Works Department- Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works**

- Mr. Thompson stated he wanted to bring information on the issue with the water on Carrington Avenue. He stated that Prince George's County had agreed to handle the situation at the cost of the County.
- They need the owner to get permission from the neighbors in the front and rear of him.
- Councilwoman Stephenson wanted to know if another resident with the same water issue can they take of advantage of getting their problem rectified through the County.
- Mr. Thompson stated that the problem on Carrington was an extraordinary problem. He doesn't want to give the impression that it can be fixed. He stated that they can take a look at the property.

## **5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

### **Mr. John Coleman- 12010 Chester Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD.**

- He stated that he want the kids to have the best. He would like to run a Kids Camp.
- He would like for the City to budget for the Kids Camp

### **Janice Fisher-112 68<sup>th</sup> Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD**

- She stated that she has received a violation for a rusted fence with a 72 hour notice to repair or paint a rusted fence. She stated that she called on Friday, January 11, 2013 to speak with the Code Enforcement Officer and she wasn't able to speak with her.
- She stated that why is a rusted fence required to be repaired in January. She feels that it is over zealous.
- She wanted to know why they were on her property.
- Mayor Grant stated she wasn't the only resident that received the violation notice. He requested that she follow-up with the City Administrator and he stated that she will be pleased with the results.

### **Jacqui Battle, 500-504 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Seat Pleasant, MD**

- Ms. Battle stated she has a couple issues that she need some clarification on; the public works is manually cleaning our street. She wanted to know the status of the Street Sweeper.
- She wanted to know why the Ward I representative did not provide a certificate of recognition on the decoration.
- Councilwoman Simms stated she did not want to single out one house. She stated that she would write recognition for the Ward in the Newsletter on the decoration.
- Council President Porter stated that the Council had a discussion for

programs of recognition to the residents.

- Mayor Grant stated that the Council has done other programs such as Jazz in the Park, Movie Night and the Health Partnership. He stated for a council person to state that the things were happening in the past. He said it was a slap in their face.
- He stated that the Council wants to be unified with the events in the City. Councilwoman Simms has had Home Depot come to the community and provide information to the community, Councilwoman Stephenson has meetings monthly and they walk in her ward.
- He stated that Councilmember Higgs and Councilmember Porter have attended her event.
- He stated that some of the things are costly. He stated that they have greater priority that will create jobs and help seniors stay in their homes.
- He stated that the focus is to improve the quality of life of the resident of Seat Pleasant “A City of Excellence”. He requested her to keep on coming and she will see things that the Council are doing to improve the City. We will not be single shooting to make one look good in the eyes of the public.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**6.1** None

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.1.** None

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 8.1. PGCMA Meeting, Thursday, January 17, 2013 College Park City Hall, 4500 Knox Rd., College Park, MD from 7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.
- 8.2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Saturday, January 19, 2013 Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 12:00p.m.-3:00p.m. Must RSVP to attend. Pleasant 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislative Breakfast, Thursday, December 13, 2012, Seat Pleasant Activity Center-5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD from 7:00am-10:00am
- 8.3. City Website Demonstration for Citizens “How to Use the City Website”, Thursday, December 20, 2012, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers from 1:00pm-2:00pm

**9. ADJOURN-** The meeting was adjourned at 8:14p.m.

Submitted by,

*Dashaun N. Lanham*

Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk

APPROVED 02/11/13